



BEAUTIFUL BOX, BASIC TOOLS

BY TROY GRIMWOOD

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

Sometimes projects require specific tools, that not all turners have in their tool box and there are a number of box hollowing tools and scrapers on the market to make boxes. However, in this demo I will give you an introduction to box turning, with two basic tools that just about all woodturners will have.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The box I will be demonstrating, is a low form so I try to use pieces with an attractive or contrasting end grain. Although end grain turning can be more challenging than side grain, it is more stable and the spigots for the lid and the base are more structurally sound.

This demo is an introduction to box turning, but gives you the foundations to create more detailed boxes. You can use more interesting timbers like burls and achieve a grain match by inserting a contrasting timber band at the lid/box junction. See below.



In this Demo we will go through:

- Suitable timbers for the project.
- Some basic rules of form and proportion.
- Design ideas for the project.
- Turning the box step by step, to completion.
- Jam chucking.

A TREASURED KEEPSAKE

These lidded boxes are a great keepsakes to gift to love ones to keep their jewelry or treasures in.

WHICH TIMBER TO USE?

I try to use attractive, end grain pieces of timber to add interest to these small boxes.

Straighter grain timbers will allow for a better grain match.



BEAUTIFUL BOX, BASIC TOOLS

CONTINUED

TOOLS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT

- Desired Bowl Gouge
- Parting Tool

A BRIEF WALK THROUGH OF TURNING THIS PIECE

For this project you will need an end grain piece of wood roughly 150mm, 6" long x 100mm, 4" square.

Mount the piece between centers and rough it to a cylinder shape.

Turn a spigot on the box end to mount it in a suitable chuck and mount the piece.

Turn a spigot on the lid end. Then shape the piece close to the desired form, but leaving room to finalize the piece after the lid is fitted.

Measure where the lid box junction will be and part off the lid.

Mount the lid end in a chuck, true the face and turn the recess to sit on the box tenon.

Hollow, sand and finish the inside of the lid.

Remount the box and form the tenon on the top of the box. Allow room to tweak the tenon to allow a very tight fit for the lid.

Hollow the box. Then sand and finish the inside of the box.

Size the tenon on the top of the box to allow for a tight/jam fit of the lid.

Jam the lid to the top of the box, then turn the top of the box and the final outside shape of the box. Then sand and finish.

Remove the lid and lightly remove some material off the box to allow for a loose (not sloppy fit) of the lid.

Part the box off at the base, leaving a waste block in the chuck.

Turn a recess in the waste block to allow for a jam fit of the box. then turn and finish the bottom of the box.